

Essentially that means we're representing 960,000 population of the state to do that. If you get down to number of voters, it's probably at least 300,000 that are represented to put an issue on the ballot. It requires a substantial number of share of the citizens of a state or the voters of the state or the registered voters of the state could be reflected in the vote by the Legislature of 30 votes to put a concept on the constitutional amendment on the ballot. So I'd urge that the body would adopt the committee amendment which provides us rather a unique opportunity to resolve this issue either way it goes as to what is constitutional or not and allows us to deal within the next two years or less, as a matter of fact, from this point which I think would be beneficial and put this whole issue behind us, so I would hope the body would support the committee amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I think probably even the senators who recently elected to this body understand and remember and are aware of the process on this petition. I'm sure they were asked about it many times during their election, but I appreciate Senator Schimek going over some of the history on what has occurred in recent years to the petition process in the State of Nebraska. I think all of us probably have a pretty good idea of how we would vote on this bill. We have a pretty good idea already of how we will vote on this amendment, realizing those of us like myself who are in favor of 6CA in its original form, that this amendment is not a compromise because there is no compromise. You either are for putting back the signatures to their precourt decision amount and then coming back, if you want to make these changes, and making them up front and honestly or you are in favor of taking advantage of a court decision to change the number of signatures needed to have a successful petition in the State of Nebraska. And that's one of the things that you have to consider. One other thing that you have to consider is there is an Attorney General's Opinion out there that says that the two-tier system is unconstitutional so you know as soon as this Legislature, if they choose to put forth this bill in any amended form, in this amended form in particular, it would be in court in a very short period of time for people who do not want the petition process, for people who, in Senator Schimek's opinion, believe that the petition process has gone bonkers. I believe that it's what we've been asking for as a country, what most politicians ask for when they're running for office and that's for people to get